



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

January 2002

2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus -

With assistance from Hand County Soil Conservationist Mark Brannen, producer Lester Moeller of Wessington South Dakota is participating in the FY 2001 USDA EQIP.

“Moeller has an agricultural nutrient management plan and knows the importance of testing the nutrient level of the manure to calculate the application rate for his cropping needs,” says Brannen.

From assistance by NRCS agency members like Brannen and EQIP cost-share funds, Moeller has developed a conservation plan that includes three waste management systems on his property.

Moeller collects waste from livestock in a 1.4 million-gallon slurry tank where it is agitated. A contractor is hired for application of the waste. With the assistance of a large diesel engine, the waste is pumped through a six-inch diameter hose to a tractor, which applies it via an injection system (on the three-point hitch) into the soil. The system has the capability of pumping the waste up to three miles.

South Dakota Summary

Overview

In South Dakota, strong interest and participation in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) continued through FY 2001. Applications requesting federal cost-share funds and those receiving funding have averaged an excellent 3:1 ratio in South Dakota since 1997. In 2001, 335 applications were submitted by landowners resulting in 206 contracts. The South Dakota 2001 allocation for financial assistance was about \$3,880,000. The 206 contracts in 2001 assisted in placing additional conservation practices on almost a half-million acres.

Accomplishments

Through designated EQIP priority areas in South Dakota, farmers and ranchers have received about \$12 million in financial assistance (cost-share) since 1997 for installing conservation practices to address natural resource concerns. The Bad River Watershed in central South Dakota tops the list of priority areas with more than \$3 million in funding. Butte County (northwestern SD) producers alone have received more than \$1 million in cost-share payments through EQIP since it became available through the 1996 Farm Bill. 2001 financial assistance was distributed in South Dakota through 25 Geographic Priority Areas. Of these, 160 applications were submitted resulting in 140 contracts involving 266,685 acres in 2001.

Outlook

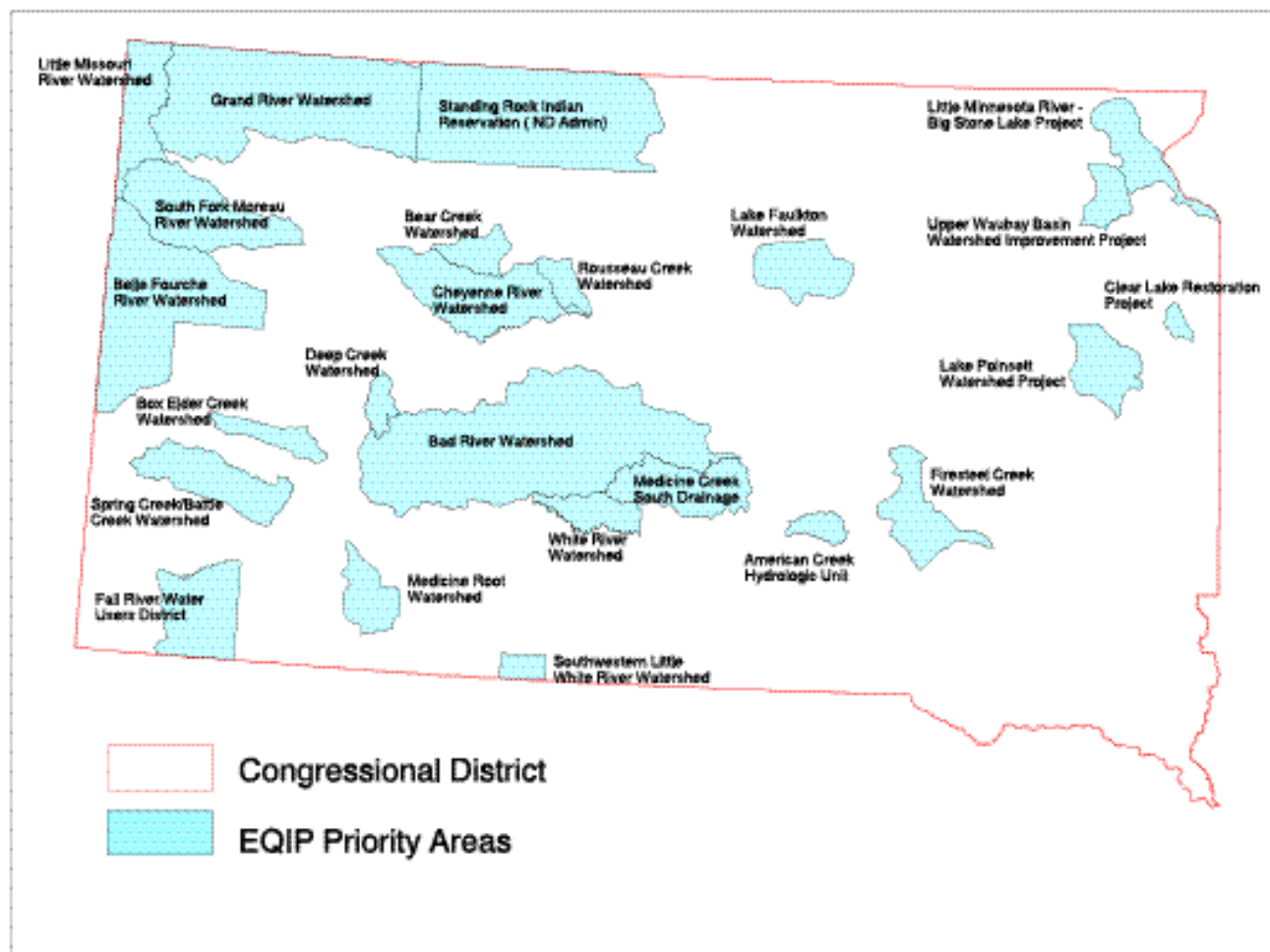
Getting conservation practices on the land is what it is all about. Through the EQIP program South Dakota has been extremely successful. An average ratio of 3:1 between EQIP applications and those resulting in contracts is outstanding.

State Contact

Mike Kuck, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, USDA NRCS EQIP Program Manager, Federal Building, Room 203, 200 Fourth Street SW, Huron, SD 57350-2475



South Dakota EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



South Dakota EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Fiscal Year 2001			Cumulative Total (97-01)	
Congressional Districts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
1	\$3,798,509	206	\$18,460,771	1,178
Total	\$3,798,509	206	\$18,460,771	1,178

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.